

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

AGR-20 /219 W

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R 091000Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 11/8/74

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, MT, FI

SUBJ: FINNISH ECONOMIC MISSION

1. AN EIGHT MAN FINNISH ECONOMIC MISSION LED BY NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR JORMA VANAMO AND DR. PAAVO KAARLEHTO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, FINNISH MINFONAFF, ARRIVED IN MALTA NOV. 5 FOR WEEK'S TALKS WITH GOM OFFICIALS. DELEGATION INCLUDES MR. ANTTI LASSILA, CHIEF OF SECTION, MINFONAFF; MR. B. BASSIN, CHIEF OF SECTION, MINFONAFF; MR. HARRI MALMBERG, MANAGING DIRECTOR, FINNISH FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION; MR. BJOERN BURMEISTER, KAAPELITEHDAS (ALUMINIUM FABRICATION PLANT); MR. MARKKU HAKOVIRTA, SOPENKORPE OY (FURNITURE OF METEX (ASPHALT MIXING PLANT, COLD AND DEEP FREEZE STORES, SHIPYARDS AND LIGHT METAL INDUSTRIES); AND MR. PAULI KENNUNEN, DIRECTOR OF SOK-FINNISH COOPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

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2. MISSION IS HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY TRADE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM, MALTA DRYDOCKS CORPORATION, MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND TOURIST BOARD. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AMBASSADOR VANAMO SAID DELEGATION STUDYING WAYS IN WHICH WAY FINNISH TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE COULD BE OFFERED TO MALTA.

3. COMMENT: FINLAND IS THE LATEST ENTRY IN THE MALTA LABOR PARTY'S FOREIGN AID AND TRADE MERRY-GO-ROUND. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST FINNISH DELEGATION FOR SOME YEARS. MALTA HAS AN UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH FINLAND. IMPORTS LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO 157,955 MALTA POUNDS (ONE MALTA POUND EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 2.75 DOLLARS). EXPORTS TO FINLAND WERE 12,677 MALTA POUNDS. DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, MALTA PURCHASED ONLY 18,845 MALTA POUNDS WORTH OF GOODS FROM FINLAND, MALTA IMPORTS CHEESE, CHOCOLATE, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, GLASSWARE AND CLOTHING FROM FINLAND.

4. AMBSSADOR VANAMO TELLS US THERE IS NO QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AID PROGRAM. HE SAYS PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO SURVEY MALTESE ECONOMY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF INVESTMENT OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BY PRIVATE FINNISH COMPANIES. GETZ

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